

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
B3402/C3403 Marina Spill - E18206 - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial
B3402/C3403 Marina Spill - E18206
Z2CC
Jersey City, NJ
Latitude: 40.7254944 Longitude: -74.0333498

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From: Kelli Lucarino, On-Scene Coordinator

Date: 5/23/2018

Reporting Period: 5/18/2018-5/25/2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	Z2CC	Contract Number:
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:
Response Authority:	OPA	Response Type:
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:
Mobilization Date:	5/18/2018	Start Date:
Demob Date:		Completion Date:
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:
ERNS No.:		State Notification:
FPN#:	E18206	Reimbursable Account #:

1.1.1 Incident Category

OPA Incident Category: dielectric fluid filled 345 kV transmission feeder lines

1.1.2 Site Description

1.1.2.1 Location

The site is located within the Newport Marina and Yacht Club located at 500 Washington Blvd. in Jersey City, New Jersey. The marina is tidally influenced and adjoining the Hudson River, a navigable waterway.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Dielectric fluid from a subterranean transmission feeder line located within the marina basin has discharged oil into the marina which is directly tidally influenced and adjoining the Hudson River, a navigable waterway. The transmission lines are owned and operated by PSE&G and Consolidated Edison (Con Ed). Due to the location of the discharge, the potential for third party claims exists for boats utilizing the marina as well as the property owner of the marina.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The USCG responded to a discharge of oil in the Newport Marina located in Jersey City, NJ on October 3, 2016. It was discovered a transmission line running from a PSE&G substation in Jersey City under the Hudson River, Manhattan and the East River to a Con Ed substation in Brooklyn, NY was slowly leaking dielectric fluid in the vicinity of the marina. The two transmission lines are located approximately 15 feet beneath the sediment and the depth of water is approximately 10 feet. The USCG maintained FOSC authority for the response and since October 3, 2016 has been working with the two Responsible Parties (PSE&G and Con Ed) to stop the discharge of oil into the marina basin which flows to the Hudson River, a navigable waterway. The USCG transferred FOSC authority to EPA on May 18, 2018.

To date, containment measures have been in place, a leak on one of the subterranean lines has been identified and secured and measures to liberate oil trapped within the sediments have been taken.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The USCG has been working with the RPs as well as the property owner to secure the discharge of oil into the navigable waterway, the Hudson River. Actions taken to date, include the identification of a leak in the B3402 transmission line as well as the repair of the damaged section of piping. Lancing operations of the sediment in the vicinity of the leak location were conducted to liberate oil trapped within the sediments. Four separate pressure/leak tests on the two transmission lines to determine if a leak is present have been conducted by the RPs. The final of the four tests was conducted from May 10, 2018 to May 15, 2018 with oversight from an independent third party engineering firm hired by the USCG. The results of this test along with the other three were analyzed and determined to be inconclusive of the presence of a leak. The report completed by the independent third party engineering firm states that while a leak is unlikely, the methodology used for testing these types of systems cannot conclusively determine if a leak with a leak rate of less than 0.5 gallons per day is present.

Currently, the two transmission lines are filled with nitrogen in the vicinity of the marina. However, slight sheening is still observed periodically on a daily basis. The USCG has estimated the sheen amount to equal to approximately 0.3 gallons per day. Prior to adding the nitrogen and removing the dielectric fluid from the lines, a tracer fluid was added to the dielectric fluid in the B3402 line to help aid in determining if a leak in that line was still present. To date, the tracer has not been detected in air samples or water/oil samples collected from the site. A different tracer was added to the nitrogen which was then added to both lines in the marina vicinity to additionally aid in determining if a leak was still present in either line. To date, this tracer has not been detected in air samples or oil/water samples collected from the site.

EPA met with representatives from PSE&G, Con Ed and NADC on May 21, 2018 to discuss future actions. Based on the sheen observations, it appears the sheening is originating from either the sediments in an isolated area directly adjacent to the bulkhead of the pier or is trapped within the sheet piling of the bulkhead or a combination of both. Actions to address the sheening were discussed and options included flushing the area under the pier with water and conducting lancing operations within the sediments. Lancing operations were not conducted in the area of the sheening originally because of stability issues with the pier. A Professional Engineer determined the operation could undermine the stability of the sheet piling and potentially cause a partial collapse of the pier by displacing the sediment. Stability issues are also a concern with flushing the area with an immense amount of water.

Based on the minimal amount of oil currently being observed and the fact the two transmission lines are currently filled with nitrogen in the marina basin, EPA along with the RPs and property owner determined the best course of action at this point is to continue with containment and observation actions. The RPs will also continue collecting air samples and oil/water samples for analysis of the tracer fluids to determine if a leak persists in either line as well as maintaining the containment boom.

EPA, the RPs and the property owner will continue to meet on a regular basis to assess the situation and determine if further action beyond containment measures will be required.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Responsible Parties (RPs)

The RPs have been identified as PSE&G and Con Ed, the owners and operators of the transmission lines.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

USCG reports to date indicate a total of 1,687 gallons have been recovered and appropriately disposed of. A total loss of oil from the dielectric fluid filled feeder lines was never calculated.

Waste Stream	Medium	Quantity	Manifest #	Treatment	Disposal

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Because of the fact the transmission lines are currently filled with nitrogen in the vicinity of the marina basin where a leak was suspected, the minimal amount of oil sheen observed on a daily basis and the cost/benefit and stability limiting factors for any further intrusive work to be conducted, EPA anticipates continuing containment measures and conducting daily observations of the area will be protective of the navigable waterway.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA will continue to meet with the RPs and property owners to discuss actions and observations. EPA will continue to monitor the situation and anticipates if no change in the situation occurs, containment measures along with the air sampling and oil/water sampling for the tracer analysis will be protective of human health and the environment.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

2.2.2 Issues

It is not anticipated the utility companies will reintroduce dielectric fluid into the two transmission lines in the near future. If the situation changes and dielectric fluid will be reintroduced into the lines, EPA recommends an additional pressure/leak test be performed with a single media type within the lines.

2.3 Logistics Section

Logistics are being coordinated by both RPs with the property owner.

2.4 Finance Section

2.4.1 Narrative

EPA obtained FPN E18206 on May 3, 2018 with an intial ceiling of \$50,000. The ceiling was subsequently raised to \$250,000 on May 3, 2018.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct	\$215,815.00	\$1,000.00	\$214,815.00	99.54%
USEPA - InDirect	\$34,185.00	\$0.00	\$34,185.00	100.00%
Total Site Costs	\$250,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$249,000.00	99.60%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

2.5 Other Command Staff

2.5.1 Safety Officer

The Health and Safety Plan developed by the USCG in conjunction with the RPs and property owner remains in effect.

2.5.2 Liaison Officer

Not applicable.

2.5.3 Information Officer

Not applicable.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

EPA
PSE&G
Con Ed
NADC

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

USCG
NJDEP

4. Personnel On Site

PSE&G has retained Miller Environmental as the clean up contractor maintaining the boom. PSE&G has also retained Gallagher Marine Systems as a consultant. These individuals are present on-site daily.

NADC has retained the Maritime Alliance Group as a consultant and to conduct Health and Safety oversight of all activities on the pier and within the marina. These individuals are present on-site daily.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Additional Polreps will be issued as needed.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.

